



Crew Returns Home to Heroes Welcome

By Alan P. Goldstein, Navy Office of Information

OAK HARBOR, Wash. (NNS) — Lieutenant Shane Osborn, pilot of the EP-3E hit by a Chinese F-8 fighter off the coast of Hainan Island on March 31, spoke for his crew at a welcome home ceremony April 14 at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, where he thanked the thousands of supporters for attending the event.

“This welcome home is a little overwhelming for all of us,” Osborn said, “but we do appreciate it.” He said the support that he and his crew have received demonstrated the spirit of the American public.

Osborn also thanked his crew and had high praise for them, who he said “performed far and above the call of duty.”

The C-9A Skytrain carrying the 24 crew members of the EP-3E touched down at Whidbey Island around 3:58 p.m. PDT (6:58 p.m. EDT) April 14. It then rolled to a stop on the tarmac and Osborn led his crew off the aircraft to the strains of Lee Greenwood’s “God Bless the U.S.A.,” and the songs of the Marine Corps, Air Force and the Navy, the three services represented by the crew.

The 24 crew members were met by members of their families, each carrying long-stemmed yellow roses. Thunderous applause from the assembled crowd inside Hangar Six greeted the crew as they entered the hangar for the formal welcoming ceremony.

Rear Adm. Michael L. Holmes, commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force Pacific, praised the airmanship, teamwork and conduct of the aircrew and said they “made us all proud to be Americans.”

At the mention of Osborn’s name by Holmes, the crowd stood and applauded. Holmes said he was sure that the only course that would keep all his crew alive was the course that Osborn took.

Earlier that day, at a news conference at Hickam Air Force Base in Honolulu prior to the crew’s departure for Whidbey Island, Osborn described the events following the mid-air collision in international waters over



Lt. Patrick Honeck, one of the EP-3E crew members held in China for 11 days after their collision with a Chinese jet, is greeted by his son at an April 14 welcome home ceremony.

Photo by Photographer’s Mate 2nd Class Aaron Ansarov

the South China Sea on March 31, when a Chinese F-8 fighter hit the Navy EP-3E.

“Contrary to some releases,” Osborn said, his aircraft was flying straight and level, on autopilot and heading away from Hainan Island in international airspace when it was subjected to harassment from the Chinese fighter. He said the Chinese jet came within three to five feet of his own aircraft twice, and on the third time, the Chinese pilot apparently misjudged and the F-8’s vertical stabilizer, where it meets the fuselage, contacted the EP-3E’s number one propeller.

The initial result of the collision was the Chinese fighter began breaking apart and the propeller of the EP-3E started throwing off pieces. The EP-3E is a four-engine, turboprop aircraft.

Osborn continued, stating that the F-8’s nose struck the nose of the EP-3E as the jet fell apparently out of control to the sea. Responding to a question, he said his initial thought was, “This guy just killed us.”

He said the EP-3E rolled over uncontrollably as it started a nosedive, losing 7,500 to 8,000 feet in altitude before he wrestled it under control. Osborn said the EP-3E was almost upside down and he could look up through the windshield and see the ocean. He stated the EP-3E’s left turn, as described by the government of the People’s Republic of China as causing the accident, actually was caused by the Chinese F-8 running into the Navy plane, putting the EP-3E in the out-of-control dive.

Aviation Machinist’s Mate Senior Chief Nicholas Mellos, a flight engineer aboard the EP-3E, described the moments following the collision as “mayhem.” He described the crew yelling over the noise of the wind and vibration caused by the loss of pieces of the propellers and the nose cone. He said it was the training that allowed them to gain control over the situation.

“Thank God for the training that we practice every day,” Mellos said.

MCPON Worldwide All Hands Call Broadcast Schedule Announced

By the Navy News Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) and Fleet Master Chiefs want Navy families to know what's going on in their Navy. To make it happen, they're going directly to the waterfront.

LIFELines is sponsoring the live, televised broadcast of "MCPON, Fleet Master Chief, Worldwide All Hands Call - 2001" on April 24 at 12:30 p.m., EDT. The Naval Media Center and its "Navy Live" mobile TV broadcast facility will produce the program from the largest naval base in the world, Naval Station Norfolk, Va. USS *Bataan* (LHD 5) crew members and their families will host the master chiefs on board for the show.

The following is a list of confirmed broadcast dates and times:

Overseas -

-Direct-To-Sailor (DTS) worldwide broadcast

- April 24, 5:30 p.m. GMT (Live via satellite) DTS- Atlantic Service, Atlantic and Indian Ocean regions, the deployed audience

- April 25, 6:30 p.m. Japan Time (Tape delayed) DTS - Pacific Service, Pacific Ocean region

-Armed Forces Network (AFN)

- April 24, 5:30 p.m. GMT (Live via satellite) SATNET - AFN- Pacific Service, C-Band to the entire world

- April 24, 5:30 p.m. GMT (Live via satellite) EUTELSAT - Ku simulcast of AFN-Pacific, service to the European detachments and home audience

State-by-state directory (local time) -

-California-

- San Diego, Time Warner, cable ch. 16
- April 24, 9:30 a.m. (Live)

For rebroadcast, check local listings

- Navy Region Southwest, cable ch. 3 (Includes Naval Base San Diego, Naval Air Station North Island, Sub Base Point Loma, pierside ships)

- April 24, 9:30 a.m. (Live)

For rebroadcast, check local listings

-Connecticut-

- Groton Municipal Television, cable ch. 2 (Includes SUBASE New London, Groton, Ledyard, Stonington, North Stonington and Voluntown)

- April 24, 12:30 p.m. (Live)

Rebroadcast:

- April 27, 9 p.m.

- May 3, 9 p.m.

- May 6, 4:30 p.m.

- May 8, 8 p.m.

- May 14, 8:30 p.m.

- May 15, 2 p.m.

- May 18, 10 p.m.

- May 22, 4:30 p.m.

-District of Columbia-

- Information Super Station, cable chs. 28 & 42

- April 24, 12:30 p.m. (Live)

Rebroadcast:

- April 24, 8:30 p.m.

- April 28, 12 p.m.

- Pentagon cable ch. 15

- April 24, 12:30 p.m. (Live)

For rebroadcast, check local listings

-Florida-

- Naval Station Mayport, MWR cable chs. 56 & 118

Tape delayed:

- April 26, 12:30 p.m.

- May 1, 12:30 p.m.

- Pensacola - University of West Florida Television, cable ch. 4

Tape delayed:

- April 27, 12:30 p.m.

- April 30, 8:30 p.m.

- May 3, 3:30 p.m.

- Naval Hospital Pensacola - VTT classroom Contact Sonya Bass at (850) 505-6940

- April 24, 12:30 p.m. (Live)

-Illinois-

- Great Lakes Naval Training Center - USN-TV, cable ch. 19

- April 24, 11:30 a.m. (Live)

Rebroadcast:

- April 30 through May 14, 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m. daily



-Hawaii-

- Pearl Harbor, Navy Region Hawaii, cable ch. 2 (Serves Pearl Harbor Naval Complex, naval installations and Navy Housing on Oahu, Hawaii)

Tape delayed:

- April 24 through April 29, 12 noon and 7 p.m.

-Rhode Island-

- Naval Station Newport - Navy Cable, ch. 11

- April 24, 12:30 p.m. (Live)

Rebroadcast:

- April 25, 12:30 p.m.

- April 26, 12:30 p.m.

-Wisconsin-

- Wisconsin Rapids - River Cities Community Access, cable ch. 3 (Charter Communications) and cable ch. 4 (InVision) (Also covers Nekossa, Port Edwards and Grand Rapids)

Tape delayed:

- April 24, 6 p.m.

- April 26, 10 a.m.

Special Note: Cable systems serving Jacksonville, Fla.; Harpswell, Maine; Mechanicsburg, Pa; Millington, Tenn.; Everett, Wash.; and Norfolk, Va., have not confirmed air times and dates as of publication date. Check on-screen cable guide for further information.

NEOSH Survey Shows Progress

By Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) — The 1999-2000 Navy Equal Opportunity and Sexual Harassment Survey (NEOSH) results are out and they indicate the Navy has made progress in providing all Sailors with equal opportunity and a harassment-free work environment. Additionally, the results reveal certain areas where the Navy will focus actions to remove inequality from its ranks.

The NEOSH survey, administered every other year since 1989, was mailed to 15,103 Sailors representing all pay grades, genders, and racial and ethnic backgrounds. Navy leaders received feedback on the progress made in areas of equal opportunity (EO),

sexual harassment, gender equality and fraternization, as well as on additional needed training and educational programs.

“The good news is that, across all demographic groups, enlisted Sailors tend to have neutral-to-positive perceptions of the Navy’s equal opportunity climate,” said Lt. Heather May of the Navy Personnel Command’s professional relationships division (PERS-613) in Millington, Tenn. “The gender gap between female and male Sailors has virtually disappeared. This means the perception may be either good or bad, but all Sailors seem to feel the same way about it.”

The survey indicates other good news, as well.

“Since 1991, there has been a significant increase in awareness of the Command Managed Equal Opportunity (CMEO) Program,” May added. “And just about everyone understands the definition of sexual harassment, as well as what behavior constitutes sexual harassment.”

Sailors also indicated a good understanding of fraternization policies. Less than 15 percent of enlisted and seven percent of officers indicated fraternization was a problem at their command.

While Sailors are aware of appropriate professional behavior, racial and ethnic gaps in perceptions of discrimination still exist, especially between whites

and blacks. Offensive speech is the most common form of unprofessional behavior cited, and more than one-third of female enlisted respondents were subjected to negative comments or jokes within the past year. About one-third of enlisted black and Hispanic Sailors also indicated discriminatory behavior in the form of negative comments or jokes.

However, the Navy needs to improve in the areas of sexual harassment aboard ships, in dining facilities and at base clubs, according to the survey results. Other noteworthy items include a lack of confidence in the grievance

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NSA Norfolk Launches Regional Web Site

By Phil Garcia, NSA Norfolk Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) — A new web site was launched recently to help Sailors and families walk through the maze of programs and information that affect their quality of life in the Hampton Roads, Va., area.

An effort between Naval Support Activity Norfolk’s and Regional Support Services office,

www.nsa-norva.navy.mil includes a comprehensive database of information that can help Sailors and families find information about

Morale, Welfare and Recreation; Fleet and Family Support Centers; family housing; food services; bachelor housing and family advocacy programs in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Web surfers who access the site will find each program has a link dedicated to their mission and featuring specific information about their programs such as hours of operation, telephone numbers and locations of facilities. Web surfers will also find valuable links to other web sites relevant to

the Navy in Hampton Roads and Department of Defense quality of life programs.

The web site is designed to be an Internet-based one-stop-shopping source of information on Navy quality of life programs. Now, Sailors around the world expecting orders here can look up information about waiting lists for family housing, quarters on base, food services on naval installations throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, recreational activities, family support programs, etc. —



programs everyone potentially has an interest in.

Find out what the Navy in Hampton Roads has to offer — log on to www.nsa-norva.navy.mil.

DoD Launches New Deployment Web Site

By the Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Members of every military service, both active and Reserve component, know that at any time they could be deployed to a place they know little about, and could be exposed to unfamiliar health risks. The Department of Defense (DoD) hopes to keep service members better informed through a new web site called DeploymentLINK, at deploymentlink.osd.mil. The site was launched April 16.

Dale Vesser, the deputy special assistant for Gulf War illnesses, medical readiness and military deployments, said communicating with service members and their families is a top priority for his organization.

“One of the most important lessons we’ve learned is the importance of listening to service members and their families,” Vesser said. “They can make better judgments about their health with more information.”

To help them, the special assistant’s office has offered two-way e-mail communication using its GulfLINK web site, www.gulflink.osd.mil, since 1997. Late last year, the office mission expanded to include medical readiness and military deployment issues.

Barbara Goodno, the office’s director of public affairs and outreach, said the expanded mission made the need for a new web site obvious.

“The Defense Department has learned a lot about the need to protect the

health of deployed service members from investigating the events of the Gulf War and trying to better understand why some Gulf War veterans are ill,” Goodno explained. “We need to let people know how we’re applying those lessons learned from the Gulf War to today’s deployments, and those in the future.”

Goodno notes the new web site is the cornerstone of the office’s communication effort, but that she and her team do not rely on the Internet as the only way to

communicate with the military and the public.

“DeploymentLINK is great, but it’s only a part of our overall communication plan,” Goodno said. “We continue to speak and set up displays at National Guard and Reservists’ conventions, as well as the conventions of major veterans service organizations like the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We meet monthly with about a dozen military and veteran service organizations. Those meetings provide us a chance

to listen to their concerns, and update them on what we’ve learned. They can later relay that information to their constituents and bring us information from the veterans.”

The web site’s users will continue to shape its content in the months ahead. Following GulfLINK’s example, DeploymentLINK will be interactive.

The tab labeled “contact us” offers those visiting the

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Ring the Bell



A World War II veteran rings the ship's bell of USS *Wisconsin* (BB 64). The battleship officially became the main attraction at the Hampton Roads Naval Museum in downtown Norfolk, Va., April 16, 57 years to the day after the ship was first commissioned in Philadelphia.

Photo by Chief Journalist Alam Baribeau

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system and fewer officers attending EO training than in previous years.

Navy leadership recognizes that equal opportunity and diversity have a direct impact on readiness. In a recent message to all hands, Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. William J. Fallon challenged deckplate supervisors, chief petty officers and officers throughout the command to become active proponents of EO and to become directly involved in monitoring their command's climate. The VCNO emphasized this includes ensuring the effectiveness of command EO training, and publicizing command policies against comments and jokes of a racist or sexist nature.

Commands throughout the Navy have the tools to raise equal opportunity and sexual harassment awareness. All Sailors are required to participate in annual EO/sexual harassment/fraternization training, which is available in GMT through a web site developed by the Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) at www.cnet.navy.mil. Instructor guides

and lesson plans are also available for download at the site.

For the future, the Navy is exploring the possibility of an interactive, computer-based training program where a Sailor can navigate through a variety of scenarios depicting situations of discriminatory or harassing behavior, and would "advance" to the next level only when their responses are correct.

The Navy's goal is to ensure every Sailor works in a professional environment, free of discrimination and harassment.

"Now more than ever, the Navy wants to be proactive — to identify and solve EO and sexual harassment problems before they happen," May said. "There is no way the Navy will be able to fix equal opportunity problems overnight, but it's a continuing process that we are all a part of."

For more information, please see NAVADMIN 070/01, or contact Lt. Heather May (PERS-613) at DSN 882-4283 or commercial (901) 874-4283, or by e-mail at mp613@persnet.navy.

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site the option of sending an e-mail to the special assistant, and lists contact telephone numbers and the mailing address. This tab also directs visitors to an easy way to be added to the site's mailing list so they can be notified whenever new information is posted on the web site.

The "frequently asked questions" list will constantly change as letters, phone calls and e-mails come in. Each question will give a better idea of what information needs to be posted on the web site.

Goodno said that communication is important not just as a guide to what should be added to the site, but also as a source of ideas from the site's users.

"We're depending on the service members, family members and veterans to tell us what they want to know," Goodno said. "For every person who asks a question, there are many more

out there who want to know the same thing. We want to respond to the audience's needs, not decide for them what they should see on the site. We really want their feedback."

The Office of the Special Assistant plans to update the site every few days with news articles written by analysts, DoD news releases and other relevant information from outside experts.

"The most important purpose for our new DeploymentLINK web site is to let people know the Department of Defense wants to keep them informed. We want them to know we are open to them, and care about them. The job of being a soldier, Sailor, airman or Marine will always be dangerous. By keeping the lines of communication open, DoD may be able to provide service members the information they need to better protect themselves and each other," concluded Goodno.

Navy/Marine Corps News

Look for the following stories and more on next week's Navy/Marine Corps News show:

- The crew of the Navy EP-3E reconnaissance plane is reunited with shipmates and family members;

- Marines of the 26th Expeditionary Unit go through the qualifications to become Special Operations Capable;

- A Sailor in Norfolk, Va., turns in his Navy uniform for an Army one...but just on weekends;

- Members of the Navy's Ceremonial Guard participate in the annual blessing of the fleet in Washington, D.C.

Compiled on tape #2001-17, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

**In Naval History:
April 24, 1862**

Convinced that the bombardment of Fort Jackson was getting nowhere, Flag Officer David G. Farragut lead his 17-vessel fleet up the Mississippi River between Confederate fortifications to take the city of New Orleans, the South's largest city and principal seaport.

The waiting Confederate flotilla was wiped out in the confusing battle. A day later, the city of New Orleans surrendered to Farragut and became the greatest blow to Confederacy in the Civil War.

Visit the Naval Historical Center web site at www.history.navy.mil for more information about naval history.

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